

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02372 091504Z

62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAB-01 IO-10 EUR-12 AID-05 OMB-01 /083 W

----- 054777

R 091331Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4351

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 2372

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, JO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION-US MIDEAST POLICY REASSESSMENT

1. SUMMARY: DURING PAST WEEK JORDANIAN PRESS HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN U.S. POLICY REASSESSMENT, PROTRAYING U.S. CONGRESS IN CONFLICT WITH PRO-ARAB FORCES IN ADMINISTRATION. PRESS SPECULATION ON GENEVA STRESSES NECESSITY FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY AND CONCRETE IDEAS TO AVOID FAILURE, ALTHOUGH QUESTION OF JORDANIAN ATTENDANCE FOR MOST PART AVOIDED. POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF KISSINGER SHUTTLE, SHOULD IT OCCUR, TERMED ISRAELI DEFEAT. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. POLICY REASSESSMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF REASSESSMENT AND AMBASSADORIAL RECALLS, COMBINED WITH LOCAL REPORTING OF SEN. MCGOVERN STATEMENTS, PRODUCED INITIAL EUPHORIA IN PRESS, ALTHOUGH EDITORIAL THEME STILL VOICED TRADITIONAL CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. "THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THIS AREA HAS NEVER BEEN SO MURKY....THE ARABS HAVE LOST THE INITIATIVE AND ARE WAITING FOR OUTSIDE MOVES..

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02372 091504Z

THIS WAITING STAGE REPRESENTS THE SPONGE WHICH IS ABSORBING

THE LAST OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OCTOBER WAR..THERE IS A FEELING THAT KISSINGER WILL RETURN, DUE TO U.S. PRESSURE, AND THAT RABIN WILL SEIZE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STALL FURTHER... THE OUTLOOK FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS OBSCURE ALSO." (AR-RAYY). AS-SABAH SAW REASSESSMENT AS ISRAELI-SPAWNED PLOT: "ISRAEL IS PLAYING UP THESE RUMORED DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT SHE IS INDEPENDENT OF THE U.S., BUT NO ONE REALLY BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL WOULD EVER SAY "NO" TO AMERICA." AR-RAYY NOTED APRIL 6 THAT "ALL THIS TALK ABOUT TENSION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND TEL AVIV AND AMERICAN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL IS ONLY SO MUCH DECEPTION...THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS ALWAYS ABLE TO PLACE ISRAEL IN HER PROPER PLACE NO MATTER HOW WEAK IT (THE U.S.) MIGHT BE TEMPORARILY. THE OUTCOME OF THE U.S. POLICY APPRAISAL WILL REMAIN PERMANENTLY TIED TO "THE PRESERVATION OF THE ISRAELI ENTITY." APRIL 8 REPORT THAT KISSINGER MIGHT RESUME MIDEAST SHUTTLE ON BASIS OF NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS PROMPTED AD-DUSTOUR TO WARN: "THIS TALK COULD BE MEANT TO SOW CONFUSION IN ARAB RANKS OR TO GAIN TIME FOR ISRAEL BY DELAYING GENEVA. THE SITUATION REQUIRES RAPID ARAB CONSULTATION..."

3. ONE OF EDITORIALS MARKEDLY OPTIMISTIC BY APRIL 9: "IF KISSINGER RESUMES HIS (SHUTTLE) MISSION,....IT MEANS THAT ISRAEL HAS LOST, BUT IF HE ANNOUNCES A DATE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, IT MEANS THAT HE FAILED AGAIN...THE TEL AVIV GOVERNMENT IS FIGHTING ITS BATTLE IN THE U.S. THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL ELEMENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN THE ABILITY OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO EXERCISE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. THE POLICY REASSESSMENT WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN 45 DAYS..AT THE SAME TIME AS THE RE-OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL, AND THIS DEALINE THUS BECOMES A CROSSROADS." (AR-RAYY). "TEL AVIV IS ANGERED BECAUSE THE REASSESSMENT..IS BEING CONDUCTED WITHOUT ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION. ISRAELI PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE DETERIORATION OF U.S.-ISREL RELATIONS SHOW THAT WASHINGTON INSISTS ON LOOKING AFTER ITS OWN INTERESTS RATHER THAN SACRIFICE THEM FOR ISRAEL."

4. GENEVA: EXCEPT FOR APRIL 3 MENTION IN AR-RAYY THAT "THE COMING ARAB SUMMIT SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT OF THE PROBLEM OF KEEP JORDAN'S EAT VACANT," LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 AMMAN 02372 091504Z

TOPIC OF JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION AVOIDED IN PRESS. STRESS IS ON NECESSITY FOR ARAB PARTICIPANTS TO COORDINATE GOALS LEST CONFERENCE COLLAPSE, LEAVING WAR AS ONLY ALTERNATIVE. AS-SABAH APRIL 7 LISTS SEVERAL POSSIBLE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH GENEVA: (1) RETURN TO GENEVA MEANS FAILURE OF U.S. MEDIATION; (2) SOVIET UNION WILL BECOME PARTY TO DELIBERATIONS AND WILL EMERGE BIGGEST BENEFICIARY OF ANY SUCCESS IN DISCUSSIONS; (3) WAR WILL BE SEEN AS ONLY ALTERNATIVE IN EVENT

OF FAILURE; (4) U.S. AND ISRAEL WILL BALK AT DISCUSSION OF FOUR-FRONT WITHDRAWAL, PREFERRING STEP-BY-STEP.

5. VIETNAM: TOPIC FOR MOST PART AVOIDED. AL-URDON EDITORIAL APRIL 2: "IN THE LIGHT OF THIS EXPERIMENT (FAILURE IN VIETNAM), IT APPEARS THAT U.S. INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL HAVE TO FACE THE SAME TRAIL IF THE U.S. CONTINUES ITS ABSOLUTE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL...THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN INDOCHINA PROVES THAT ISRAEL'S DEPENDENCE ON AMERICA WILL COME TO AN END ONE DAY..."

6. COMMENT: WIDESPREAD MEDIA COVERAGE ON U.S. MIDEAST POLICY REASSESSMENT IS HAVING PERCEPTIBLE EFFECT ON LOCAL PUBLIC OPINION. SEVERAL OF OUR CONTACTS HAVE INDICATED SIGNIFICANTLY MORE FAVORABLE PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S. IN PAST DAYS, BASED ON BELIEF THAT U.S. TAKING TOUGH LINE WITH ISRAEL AND THAT U.S. MIDEAST POLICY REASSESSMENT WILL SOMEHOW PRODUCE U.S. ACTIONS IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS FAVORABLE TO ARABS.
SUDDARTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SURVEYS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN02372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750123-0940
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750469/aaaackzh.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION-US MIDEAST POLICY REASSESSMENT
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006